

Reviews and Bibliographical Notes.

A System of Practical Medicine by American Authors.

Edited by WM. PEPPER, M.D., LL.D. Volume V. Diseases of the Nervous System. 8vo, pp. 1,326. Philadelphia: Lea Brothers and Co., 1886.

In spite of the fact that the volume before us is the largest single volume on diseases of the nervous system that has ever been published, it is not large enough to contain all the articles on nervous diseases that have been contributed to this System, for the contributions on myalgia, progressive muscular atrophy, and pseudo-hypertrophic paralysis have been placed in the previous volume. The volume before us forms a fitting conclusion to the great System of Medicine which in so short a time has won so high a position in medical literature, and, in itself, it is a contribution to our knowledge of nervous diseases of which American neurologists may well be proud.

One of the striking features of the volume before us is the amount of individual investigation and personal experience that the contributions represent—a feature which might, of course, be expected from the character of the contributors, but which becomes more noticeable on viewing the entire work as a whole. While almost every article shows the results of wide reading, hardly one of them degenerates into a summary of other men's work.

Divided as the work has been among so many contributors—twenty-nine in all—we miss, of course, the unity and system which render the exhaustive treatises of Erb and Kussmaul so valuable in the great German *Handbuch*. This fragmentary character of the work before us is due in part to the defective classification of diseases adopted—nominally that of the Royal College of Physicians, but practically the same chaotic arrangement as is employed in Reynolds' System of Medicine. To this imperfect and incomplete classification we owe, perhaps, the entire omission of certain subjects—for example, arsenical paralysis, tetany, subacute poliomyelitis, compression of the cord, the acute diseases of the medulla, and, worst of all, an account of the individual forms of peripheral spasm and paralysis. Another unpleasant, but probably unavoidable feature is the lack of unity between the articles: we have noted more than one repetition, and have failed to find in their appropriate places many subjects referred to in other portions of the work. A still more serious defect is the sad lack of propor-

tion displayed in the space assigned to the various contributions—a manifest fault which detracts from the value of some of the best work. To cite a single example, without meaning to judge of the value of an article by its bulk, unilateral facial atrophy has more space assigned to it than the disorders of speech. Aside from these defects, the work is of great value and maintains a high average of excellence, many articles being of exceptional merit and hardly any absolutely poor.

Turning from the work as a whole to the individual contributions, of which we have space for but little more than a mention, the first two articles, which are introductory, are by Dr. E. C. Seguin—"General Semeiology of Diseases of the Nervous System; Data of Diagnosis," and "The Localization of Lesions in the Nervous System." To these articles nothing but praise can be given. Concise almost to a fault, they present in the limited space assigned to them a store of facts and a full account of the important symptoms in nervous diseases and the latest results of our knowledge of localization.

Dr. C. F. Folsom furnishes the next article—"Mental Diseases." In the too limited space at his command, he has wisely decided to touch lightly upon most of the forms of mental disease—except general paralysis—and to dwell mainly upon the relations of the general practitioner to insanity in its professional and social bearings, and the general principles of the treatment of the insane at asylums and at home. We regret that more space could not have been given to this subject, for, with a fuller discussion of the individual forms of insanity, this would be the best treatise on the subject for the general practitioner in English. As it is, we are glad to know that it has been printed separately.

Dr. C. K. Mills has four interesting papers on "Hysteria," "Hystero-epilepsy," "Catalepsy," and "Ecstasy." The first two form the most valuable contributions to the study of hysteria that have been made outside of la Salpêtrière. The author seems to us to make rather too sharp a distinction between the two affections, however, in stating that voluntary purposive attacks are to be classed as hysteria, and involuntary, non-purposive seizures as hystero-epilepsy. Full as these articles are of interesting details and valuable observations, we must regard them as unduly diffuse for the work before us.

Dr. H. C. Wood contributes a brief but valuable and suggestive paper on "Neurasthenia," and Dr. Henry M. Lyman an interesting but rather long paper on "Sleep and its Disorders." Dr. Wood also writes on "Acute Affections produced by Heat," giving the substance of his former well-known researches with considerable fresh matter. Dr. Wharton Sinkler gives a good account of "Head-ache," and Dr. S. Weir Mitchell contributes an admirable paper on "Vertigo." Dr. Sinkler also furnishes well-written articles on "Tremor," "Paralysis Agitans," "Chorea," and "Athetosis." Of these we can make special note only of the one on "Chorea," as

being a careful study of the affection, enriched with many valuable observations.

Dr. Allan McLane Hamilton's article on "Local Convulsive Disorders"—that is, Thomsen's disease, facial spasm, torticollis, and eclampsia—seems to us utterly inadequate and far below the standard of our present knowledge. He also furnishes the paper on "Epilepsy," which is much superior. It is an intelligent and carefully studied treatise, although we could have wished a fuller exposition of Hughlings-Jackson's theories, even at the expense of losing his scholarly review of the older ideas.

Dr. Morris J. Lewis, who writes on "The Neural Disorders of Writers and Artisans," gives us a very long paper, which is, nevertheless, one of the best in the volume, and the most exhaustive treatise on the subject of which we have any knowledge. He dwells especially upon the ætiology and symptoms of telegraphers' cramp, which has too often been regarded as of exceptional occurrence.

Dr. P. S. Conner furnishes an excellent paper on "Tetanus." This is followed by a paper, seven and a half pages long, by Dr. E. P. Davis, on "Disorders of Speech." We do not wish to criticise this paper too severely, for Dr. Davis writes intelligently on stuttering and stammering, and we do not know who is at fault; but when we recall the work done on aphasia since Kussmaul's great monograph appeared, and the fulness with which it is treated in ordinary text-books, such a neglect in a work of this sort, amounting almost to an absolute omission of aphasia, is inexcusable and disgraceful.

Dr. James C. Wilson's paper on "Alcoholism" merits the highest praise for its exhaustive classification of symptoms, its careful research, and its admirable good sense. His papers on "The Opium Habit and Kindred Affections" and "Chronic Lead Poisoning," are of equal value, but in the last-named article we are surprised to find no mention of lead as a cause of chronic myelitis or of the detection of lead in the urine as a means of diagnosis.

Dr. Mills gives a good account of "Progressive Unilateral Facial Atrophy;" Dr. Francis Minot furnishes four able and scholarly papers on "Diseases of the Membranes of the Brain and Spinal Cord," "Tubercular Meningitis," "Chronic Hydrocephalus," and "Congestion, Inflammation, and Hæmorrhage of the Membranes of the Spinal Cord;" and Dr. John Ashhurst, Jr., writes on "Spina Bifida."

Dr. E. C. Spitzka contributes a long paper on "Anæmia and Hyperæmia of the Brain and Spinal Cord." He gives an admirable discussion of the vexed question of vascular changes in the brain, and does much to put our knowledge on a firm foundation, but we would question whether this subject is of enough relative importance to be discussed at such length, to the exclusion of other matter. We cannot omit a word of praise for his admirable essay on acute myelitis. Dr. Spitzka also writes on "The Chronic Inflammatory and Degenerative Affections of the Spinal Cord" in a way that is unexcelled. Unfortunately lack of space demands too

great brevity in his account of some of the affections, but the section on tabes dorsalis, for example, is admirable for its exhaustive character, is careful research, and its deep learning.

Dr. Wm. Hunt gives a brief but interesting article on "Concussion of the Brain and Spinal Cord," in which he combats the former theories, without, however, discussing the subject in full.

Dr. R. T. Edes contributes one of the ablest articles in the work on "Intracranial Hæmorrhage and Occlusion of the Cerebral Vessels, Apoplexy, Softening of the Brain, Cerebral Paralysis," an article crowded with personal observations and research, and filled with the results of a wide range of reading.

Dr. H. D. Schmidt writes briefly of "Atrophy and Hypertrophy of the Brain;" and Dr. H. C. Wood on "Syphilitic Affection of the Nerve Centres," an article richly illustrated by classified tables of cases. He treats the subject under three heads, gummatous brain syphilis, syphilis of the cerebral cortex, and spinal syphilis.

We know of no articles more elaborate and exhaustive on the subjects of which they treat than the two papers by Dr. C. K. Mills and Dr. J. H. Lloyd on "Tumors of the Brain and its Envelopes," and "Tumors of the Spinal Cord and its Envelopes." The former is enriched with a table giving a synopsis of a hundred selected cases, the latter with a similar table of fifty cases.

Dr. Mary Putnam Jacobi contributes an elaborate article on "Infantile Spinal Paralysis," crowded with references to the literature of the subject, and filled with valuable matter which is dwelt upon with such detail as to be almost confusing.

Dr. H. D. Schmidt treats of "Disease of One Lateral Half of the Spinal Cord," and also contributes an acceptable paper on "Progressive Labio-glosso-laryngeal Paralysis."

Dr. F. T. Miles writes on "Diseases of the Peripheral Nerves" in rather an inadequate fashion. We have already spoken of the omission of an account of the individual forms of peripheral paralysis, but in addition to this, his remarks on the pathology of the peripheral nerves is unsatisfactory and incomplete, his discussion of the electrical reactions is obscure and misleading, and he omits to describe alcoholic neuritis.

Dr. J. J. Putnam contributes a full and systematic article on "Neuralgia," which is thoroughly satisfactory except for the necessary omission, from want of space, of the articular neuralgias.

The final paper, on "Vaso-Motor and Trophic Neuroses," is by Dr. M. Allen Starr, who contributes a valuable and scholarly account of the various symptoms and affections which are now classed under this heading, but which, as he says, will some day be put under other headings. His discussion of the vexed question of trophic neuroses in particular is an admirable contribution to our knowledge.

P. C. KNAPP.

A Text-book of Medicine, by DR. A. STRUEMPELL. Translated by H. F. VICKERY, A.B., M.D., and P. C. KNAPP, A.M., M.D., with Editorial Notes by F. C. SHATTUCK, A.M., M.D. New York : D. Appleton & Company, 1887.

Every book has its day. Niemeyer is on the wane, and Struempell in the ascendant. The former's book has attained a good old age, and laden with all the honors that a full generation of students could bestow upon it, it is now ready to leave the arena to others. Few text-books have wielded so potent an influence as Niemeyer's in its day; but in spite of its ten or a dozen editions, it is dying of old age, and all the tinkering of Seitz, himself a distinguished investigator, could not avail to keep it above ground. Struempell was right in his judgment that there was sore need of a text-book which would take into account the vast advances that had been made during the last decade in every branch of clinical medicine. The first edition of Struempell's work was published about four years ago, at a time when the medical world was full of Koch's discoveries, and our views on the causation of disease were destined to undergo great changes.

Few men could have acquitted themselves better of this task than Struempell has. With all the enthusiasm of a young investigator, he has managed to present the salient features of every disease in the strongest light; to be explicit without being verbose, and to exhibit originality in the treatment of a subject without entering upon the field of pure speculation.

While Struempell commands an excellent knowledge of the entire field of medicine, he is nowhere more at ease and more successful than in his description of diseases of the nervous system. And with this part of the book we are chiefly concerned. Of the nine hundred and fifty odd pages in this text-book, three hundred are devoted to nervous diseases—not at all a disproportionate number, if we remember that the author's original work lies entirely in this direction.

Like Gowers, the author begins with the simple and proceeds to the complex. First we have sections on the different forms of sensibility as an introduction to the chapter on diseases of the sensory nerves, with full descriptions of the various forms of neuralgia; then diseases of the motor nerves, prefaced again by general remarks upon disturbances of motility, and these followed by sections on the various forms of peripheral paralyses, of localized spasms, and a very full chapter on multiple neuritis. Vaso-motor and atrophic neuroses, diseases of the spinal cord, diseases of the medulla oblongata, diseases of the brain and its meninges, and neuroses without known anatomical basis (including epilepsy, chorea, athetosis, paralysis agitans, Thomsen's disease, catalepsy, hysteria and neurasthenia, and others), follow in the order named.

The distinguishing characteristics of these chapters are that they are written with the utmost clearness, that mere speculative theories are excluded as far as possible, that the clinical picture is in each instance developed with remarkable skill, and that special

stress is laid upon the pathology of the individual form of disease. According to our American notions, the remarks on treatment are rather meagre, but if they are limited, they are at least direct to the point, often suggest novel methods, and do not raise false hopes as to the curability of these diseases.

There is no need, we believe, to examine the many chapters in which controversial subjects are treated with a view to fixing the author's individual opinion in each instance; we have space for a few notes only, and it must be remembered, furthermore, that, in keeping with the purpose of the book, the author refrains, as a rule, from alluding to matters still *sub judice*.

Lead paralysis he holds to be a peripheral disease, though in some cases there may be an affection as well, of the spinal cord. Arsenical paralysis is in all likelihood peripheral. In all forms of neuritis, the toxic origin is the most frequent. Progressive muscular atrophy is treated of among spinal-cord diseases, and the author believes that there is a distinct spinal form and that the degeneration is confined to that portion of the motor-conducting tract which extends from the ganglion cells of the anterior cornua to the muscular fibres themselves. Pseudo-hypertrophy and simple juvenile atrophy he considers pure myopathies. Struempell does not believe in primary lateral sclerosis as a distinct disease, an anatomical entity; it is a convenient designation for a frequent group of symptoms.

Ophthalmoplegia progressiva is considered not unlike bulbar paralysis, and is discussed very briefly in the same chapter with the latter. As was to be expected from other publications of his own, S. compares the pathological process of poli-encephalitis to that of acute polio-myelitis in children, and makes "porencephaly" dependent upon a preceding poli-encephalitis. The author may be right in this, but at best it is rather a *previous* remark for a text-book.

As regards the etiology of locomotor ataxia, the author has introduced his most recent views of the formation of an intermediate *chemical* poison as the result of syphilitic infection. And so we might continue quoting the author's views. A little more caution in the expression of his own personal views would at times have been wiser; but the intelligent student will not be misled by these remarks, and the thinking practitioner will be benefitted by such suggestions.

That the book is a good one there can be no doubt, and that it is a thoroughly *useful* book the writer is glad to admit, for during the past two months he has made it his first book of reference in all matters neurological, and in every instance has found it satisfactory. And this is true not only of the neurological portion, but also of the chapters on pulmonary, cardiac, and renal diseases, which the present writer has consulted as occasion demanded.

Drs. Vickery and Knapp deserve more than a passing word of praise for the manner in which they have performed their part of the task. They have had the great advantage of translating a

work which was written about as clearly as German medical men are ever apt to write. But, granting this, it is to their credit that they have succeeded in making a readable and thoroughly reliable translation. It is only occasionally that they have fallen into slight inelegancies, and very rarely into actual error. On p. 682, we do not like the statement "that cerebral hemianæsthesia does cause hemiopia." The original reads, "Dass die Sehstörung bei der cerebralen Hemianæsthesie auch hemiopischer Natur sei." One clinical symptom (hemianæsthesia) cannot be the cause of another clinical symptom (hemiopia). "To say absolutely nothing," p. 597, is not very elegant. But these are very trivial errors, and count for naught in view of the evidence to be found on almost every page that the translation has been done in the most painstaking manner. The index is a model of its kind. Dr. Knapp, who is responsible for the neurological chapters, has added a few excellent notes to the various sections. We wish he would have given a little more "local coloring" at times to his work. Teplitz, Wiesbaden, and Rehme are recommended to complete the recovery from neuritis, myelitis, etc. The American student and practitioner have a right to know of some places nearer home that will answer the same purpose. Of Dr. Shattuck's share in this work we have nothing to say, as he appears to have steered clear of neurology.

The book is well printed, and not unwieldy. The illustrations are good and plentiful. We commend this text-book to all practitioners, and to students of neurology in particular. B. S.

Editorial Notes and Miscellany.

We are pained to announce the death of Dr. James Stewart Jewell, of Chicago, on April 18th, after a lingering and complicated illness. During the past year or more, numerous evidences of Dr. Jewell's poor health reached his New York friends and acquaintances, but none expected so early an end to a bright career. Dr. Jewell was born September 8th, 1837, at Galena, Ill. He took his degree at the Chicago Medical College in 1860, and two years later began his practice in Chicago, in which he continued until the time of his death. From 1864 to 1869, he held a position as professor of anatomy in his college, and since 1872 has filled the chair of Nervous and Mental Diseases. In 1874, Dr. Jewell founded this JOURNAL, and, in the face of many discouraging conditions, continued it until a few years ago. Through the efforts of its founder, the JOURNAL soon obtained an enviable reputation among journals on neurology. Looking back upon past numbers,